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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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09/661,737

09/14/2000

Noriyuki Ohsawa

FUJY 17.750

9012

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08/18/2004

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EXAMINER

NG, CHRISTINE Y

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2663

8

DATE MAILED: 08/18/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/661,737

Applicant(s)

OHSAWA ET AL.

Examiner

Christine Ng

Art Unit

2663

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 02 June 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-12 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 2,4,5 and 9-11 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1,6,7,8 and 12 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 3 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 14 September 2000 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

Application/Control Number: 09/661,737
Art Unit: 2663

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

1. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

2. Claims 6 and 7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Claim 6 recites the limitation "the self communication terminal device" in lines 3-4 of the claim. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

Claim 7 recites the limitation "said line control unit" in line 7 of the claim. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

4. Claims 1 and 8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,134,652 to Brown et al.

Brown et al disclose in Figure 1 a communication line control method comprising:

Providing one communication terminal device (Console station 107) incorporating communication functions containing voice communications and data communications, and including a line control unit (CEB 109) and a distributed control module (Console

Application/Control Number: 09/661,737
Art Unit: 2663

115,117,119). Refer to Column 1, lines 13-19 and Column 2, line 50 to Column 3, line

5.

Determining, if there occurs a plurality of calls that should be simultaneously processed on a plurality of communication lines (Communication stations 101, 103, 105) connected to a network, a specified call as a control target call among the plurality of calls on the basis of preset condition data in the line control unit (CEB 109). When there are multiple incoming calls, the CEB 109 places the calls in the incoming-call queue 207 according to a predetermined priority such as urgency of the call or chronological order. Refer to Column 1, lines 65-68; Column 2, lines 52-60; and Column 3, line 60 to Column 4, line 10.

Processing only the specified call determined by the line control unit (CEB 109) without being aware of the plurality of communication lines in the distributed control module (Console 115,117,119). When the next-incoming-call button 303 on console 115,117,119 is pressed, the call at the top of the incoming-call queue 207 on CEB 109 is selected and put on-speaker for the operator. Refer to Column 3, lines 38-41.

5. Claims 7 and 12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,852,405 to Yoneda et al.

Yoneda et al disclose in Figures, 1, 5 and 6 a communication line control method

comprising:

Providing a plurality of communication terminal devices (Figure 1, Master stations 11,12) each incorporating communication functions containing voice communications

Art Unit: 2663

and data communications, and accommodating a plurality of communication lines (channels) connected to a network.

Notifying, if there occurs a change in state of one arbitrary communication terminal device (Figure 1, Master stations 11,12), of this state to the line control unit (Figure 5, LAN Controller 21) of the other communication terminal device (Figure 1, Master stations 11,12) from an interface (Figure 5, Wired-LAN interface 21a) of the one arbitrary communication terminal device (Figure 1, Master stations 11,12) that has a function of operating with an independent power supply (Column 7, lines 23-26). Each master station 11,12 notifies the other master station 11,12 of the state of its channel use ("IN USE" or "NOT IN USE") using the LAN controller 21. Refer to Column 4, lines 16-31; Column 5, line 65 to Column 6, line 5; and Column 6, lines 36-57.

Updating a condition table (Figure 5, Channel management table 22) in the line control unit (Figure 5, LAN Controller 21) of the other communication terminal devices (Figure 1, Master stations 11,12). The LAN controller 21 of each master station 11,12 then stores the state of use of channels ("IN USE" or "NOT IN USE") in table 22 using the information from itself and other master stations 11,12. Refer to Column 4, lines 16-31; Column 5, line 65 to Column 6, line 5; and Column 6, lines 36-57.

Executing the line control related to the communication terminal device (Figure 1, Master stations 11,12) exhibiting the change in state. Refer to Column 4, lines 16-31; Column 5, line 65 to Column 6, line 5; and Column 6, lines 36-57.

Allowable Subject Matter

6. Claims 2, 4, 5 and 9-11 are allowed.

Art Unit: 2663

7. Claim 3 is objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Conclusion

8. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Christine Ng whose telephone number is (703) 305-8395. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F; 8:00 am - 5:00 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Nguyen Chau can be reached on (703) 308-5340. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

C. Ng *cu*
August 9, 2004

Chau T. Nguyen
CHAU NGUYEN
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